



## TAXIDERMY PERMITS INFORMATION

*By authority of Act 451 of 1994, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is authorized to issue permits for the practice of taxidermy [MCL 324.40114].*

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### **Who Needs a Taxidermy Permit?**

A taxidermy permit is required of any person to conduct a taxidermy business or to engage in preparing or mounting the skins, plumage or parts thereof, from any regulated birds or mammals for a fee. A person issued a taxidermy permit shall only possess game or protected animals for the purpose of taxidermy at the location described in their taxidermy permit.

The fee for a taxidermy permit is \$50.00. A taxidermy permit shall be valid for three (3) years or through the third June 30th after issue, whichever comes first, and are renewable for 3-year periods thereafter.

### **What Does a Taxidermy Permit Authorize The Permittee To Do?**

#### **Possession**

A taxidermy permit authorizes POSSESSION of legally obtained carcasses of wild birds and mammals, or parts thereof, for the purpose of taxidermy. Legally obtained carcasses are specimens lawfully taken during an open season, lawfully raised under authority of a registered captive cervidae facility or permit to keep wildlife in captivity, lawfully imported from another state or country, or lawfully held under a special permit from the State of Michigan and/or the U.S. Department of Interior. In addition, unprotected small mammals such as mice, voles, shrews, moles, weasels, and chipmunks may be legally possessed and used in taxidermy mounts.

Any species originating from Michigan which is listed on the Michigan endangered species list cannot be possessed without an endangered species permit. The possession of migratory waterfowl or any other migratory bird is prohibited unless you possess both a state and federal taxidermy permit.

All species of non-game birds except English sparrows, European starlings, and feral pigeons are fully protected and cannot be possessed without a special permit. Examples of non-game birds would include hawks, owls, eagles, and all songbirds.

#### **Purchase**

A Taxidermy permit authorizes the holder to PURCHASE certain animals and animal parts. Animals and animal parts that may be purchased include:

1. The hide, fur, pelt, plumage or skin of game animals, fur-bearing animals and game birds (except migratory birds unless captive bred);
2. The carcasses and parts of fur-bearing animals;
3. The antlers of deer, elk and moose;
4. The skulls of black bear;
5. Dead animals, and parts thereof, acquired from captive breeders.

The teeth, claws, flesh, bones, internal organs or parts of internal organs of wild game and protected species, except fur-bearing species, cannot be bought or sold.

Threatened and endangered species cannot be purchased in Michigan except under an endangered species permit which specifically provides for the purchase.

#### **Sale**

In addition, a taxidermy permit authorizes the permittee to SELL mounted specimens or permanently preserved specimens or their hides, capes or plumage except wild migratory birds. Threatened and endangered species cannot be sold in Michigan except under an endangered species permit which specifically provides for the sale. The taxidermist selling a specimen must transfer to the buyer or recipient, documentation to show the specimen was legally acquired by the taxidermist and legally transferred to the new owner. Protected species, which can only be possessed under special permit, can only be transferred to those individuals, institutions or organizations which hold a special permit or may legally possess that species. A taxidermy permit does not authorize the permittee to sell any specimen which has not been mounted or otherwise permanently preserved.

A taxidermy permit does not authorize the permittee to sell wild migratory birds. A properly marked, captive bred, mounted migratory bird may be sold if it was lawfully obtained from a captive breeder and sold in compliance with federal regulations.

### ***What is regulated by the State of Michigan?***

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates taxidermy work on game and protected species in Michigan, and species listed on the state and federal endangered or threatened species lists including species listed in the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna, and Flora (CITES)*.

The Michigan DNR does not regulate taxidermy work on domestic, semidomestic, fish, or exotic species (e.g., buffalo, caribou, mule deer, etc.). There is no inventory or tagging requirement for these species. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may require importation permits for species originating from outside the United States.

### ***Records and Inspection***

The following specific information is required for each animal or part thereof, which is held or processed by a taxidermist.

1. Each specimen must be identified by the taxidermist with a tag supplied by the Michigan DNR (PR9418). As an acceptable alternative, the specimen may be identified by unique tattoo, band or seal number if the DNR tag is properly completed, on file at the taxidermy location and contains the unique tattoo, band or seal number identifying the specimen.
2. Each DNR tag shall include the following:
  - a. Name, address and telephone number of owner
  - b. Date when specimen was left with taxidermist
  - c. Species of specimen
  - d. How specimen was obtained
  - e. Hunting license number, captive breeder number, driver license number or other special permit number authorizing possession of specimen
  - f. Origin of specimen
  - g. Disposal of specimen and date
  - h. If used, unique tattoo, band, or seal number on specimen.
  - i. Name of person leaving the specimen
  - j. Name and license number of the taxidermist
3. A person issued a taxidermy permit shall keep a copy of the identification tag (PR9418) for each specimen disposed of for one year after disposal of any specimen.

This record and all specimens in possession of the taxidermist shall be available for inspection at any reasonable time of day by the Director, the Director's designee or any conservation officer.
4. Identification tags must be purchased in packages of 50 from the Michigan DNR. The cost is \$6.60 per package. The cost for tags covers printing and shipping.

### ***Federal Permits***

A federal taxidermy permit, available from the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, is required of all persons who provide taxidermy services for another on legally taken migratory birds (ducks, geese, swans, coots, gallinules, snipes, rails and other migratory species under special permit). Permit applications are available from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Permit Office, PO Box 45, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-0045, telephone 612-713-5436.

### ***Seals and Seal Removal***

Bear, river otter, bobcat, and fisher taken in Michigan are required to be sealed with a Michigan DNR seal for that species. A seal on an animal requiring sealing by the department can be cut and removed from the specimen by a licensed taxidermist at the location of their business at any time following the recording of the seal number and completion of the taxidermy tag. Once the information is recorded and the seal is removed, there is no requirement to retain the seal and it may be destroyed.

### ***Hunters Importing Deer and Elk***

If a hunter imports a mule deer, white-tailed deer, or elk from a state or province determined to have chronic wasting disease (CWD) in their free-ranging deer or elk populations (see current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for listing of states and provinces) they are **restricted to bringing into Michigan only deboned meat, clean antlers, antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides and upper canine teeth.**

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### ***Michigan Elk Mounts***

Within two weeks of taking an elk in Michigan, all hunters are required to submit the head to a Michigan DNR office. This requirement provides the DNR the opportunity to examine all elk taken in Michigan for Bovine tuberculosis. Typically, the licensed taxidermist will receive a sealed elk specimen, prior to the required submission of the elk's head, for caping. In scheduling elk work, please take into consideration the hunter's deadline for head submittal. If desired, the licensed taxidermist may submit the elk head for the hunter to a DNR office. The DNR office will need to know the hunter's name.

A licensed taxidermist may remove the seal on an elk at the location of their business at any time following the recording of the seal number and completion of the taxidermy tag.

### ***Possession of Road-Killed Wild Animals***

It is not unusual for Michigan taxidermists to work on road-killed animals or have clients bring them road-killed animals for mounting. The following are the uniform statewide regulations for the possession of road-killed animals:

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>UNIFORM STATEWIDE REGULATIONS</b>
Moose, elk	Road-killed animal cannot be picked up; DNR may release carcass following the collection of biological data.
Deer, bear	May be possessed with a road-killed permit. Permit must be attached to carcass within 24 hours. Permit issued by police officer investigating traffic accident, Michigan DNR Conservation Officer, or DNR office.  Permit for spotted fawn or cub bear cannot be issued except for scientific educational purposes.
Endangered and threatened species (Lynx, wolf, cougar, loon, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, etc..)	Cannot be picked-up or possessed; permits to possess cannot be issued except for scientific/educational uses.
Non-game birds (Hawks, owls, robins, warblers, etc.)	Cannot be picked-up or possessed except under federal and state permit for scientific/educational purposes.
Migratory birds (Ducks, geese, swans, coots, etc.)	Cannot be picked-up or possessed except under federal and state permit for scientific/educational purposes.
Game birds and game mammals, except migratory birds	May be picked-up and possessed by a person with a hunting license for the species if the season is open in the area where the animal is killed. Animals must be included in daily, possession and season limit.  Game species for which there is no closed season (skunk, woodchuck, opossum, weasels, ground squirrel, and red squirrel) may be picked-up year round with a valid hunting license.  Raccoon and coyote cannot be picked-up except during an established open season for those species. Damage control on private property is not an open season.
English (house) sparrows, starlings, feral pigeons, and all nongame mammals (e.g., porcupine, mice, vole, chipmunk, bat, etc, unless threatened or endangered species)	May be picked-up and possessed by anyone at any time without permit.

### ***Requirements for Importation of Hawks and Owls from Canada***

Hawks and owls may be exported from Canada, and imported into the United States for specimen preparation by a taxidermist. All birds, prior to import or export, must be declared to Canadian and U.S. Customs. The following permits are required prior to entry, or exit.

To export from Canada, and import into the US:

- 1) Certificate of Reporting Game, issued by OMNR.
- 2) CITES II export permit, issued by Ontario/Canada.
- 3) U.S. Migratory Bird Import permit, issued by USF&WS Region 3, Minneapolis, MN, telephone 612-725-3776.

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To import back into Canada and export from the US:

- 1) Certificate of Reporting Game
- 2) CITES II export permit, issued by USF&WS, Office of Management Authority, 800-358-2104.
- 3) U.S. Migratory Bird Export Permit issued by USF&WS.

To ship through the mail, the specimen must be checked with the USF&WS Wildlife Inspector, telephone 734-941-6801. The package must be marked WILDLIFE and all the appropriate permits must be included with the bird being shipped.

If a bird is transported across the border by vehicle, a non-designated port exception permit is required, and can be obtained from the UFS&WS Wildlife Inspector telephone 734-941-6801.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species - Imported Trophies**

Under Michigan law a person may import a threatened or endangered species trophy, not for resale, provided that the animal is legally acquired in the state, province, or country where the trophy was caught, taken or killed. A Michigan taxidermist can legally perform taxidermy work on the specimen, however, the animal cannot be purchased or sold in Michigan. Because even the sale of abandoned species is prohibited, taxidermists may want to take extra precautions when accepting these specimens. Documentation of lawful acquisition and/or importation of the animal must be maintained, and remain with that animal.

For reference purposes, the following are the currently listed threatened and endangered mammal and bird species in Michigan:

#### **R 299.1027 Mammals.**

Rule 7. (1) The following species of mammals are included on the state list of endangered species:

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| (a) <i>Felis concolor</i> Linnaeus         | Cougar       |
| (b) <i>Lynx canadensis</i> Kerr            | Lynx         |
| (c) <i>Microtus ochrogaster</i> (Wagner)   | Prairie vole |
| (d) <i>Myotis sodalis</i> Miller and Allen | Indiana bat  |

(2) The following species of mammals are included on the state list of threatened species:

- |                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| (a) <i>Canis lupus</i> Linnaeus  | Gray wolf   |
| (b) <i>Cryptotis parva</i> (Say) | Least shrew |

#### **R 299.1026 Birds.**

Rule 6. (1) The following species of birds are included on the state list of endangered species:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| (a) <i>Asio flammeus</i> (Pontoppidan)          | Short-eared owl           |
| (b) <i>Charadrius melodius</i> Ord              | Piping plover             |
| (c) <i>Dendroica discolor</i> (Vieillot)        | Prairie warbler           |
| (d) <i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i> (Baird)         | Kirtland's warbler        |
| (e) <i>Falco peregrinus</i> Tunstall            | Peregrine falcon          |
| (f) <i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i> (Palmer) | Migrant loggerhead shrike |
| (g) <i>Rallus elegans</i> Audubon               | King rail                 |
| (h) <i>Tyto alba</i> (Scopoli)                  | Barn owl                  |

(2) The following species of birds are included on the state list of threatened species:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| (a) <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> Audubon         | Henslow's sparrow       |
| (b) <i>Asio otis</i> (Linnaeus)                 | Long-eared owl          |
| (c) <i>Buteo lineatus</i> (Gmelin)              | Red-shouldered hawk     |
| (d) <i>Corturnicops noveboracensis</i> (Gmelin) | Yellow rail             |
| (e) <i>Dendroica dominica</i> (Linnaeus)        | Yellow-throated warbler |
| (f) <i>Falco columbarius</i> (Linnaeus)         | Merlin                  |
| (g) <i>Gavia immer</i> (Brunnich)               | Common loon             |
| (h) <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (Linnaeus)  | Bald eagle              |
| (i) <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> (Gmelin)           | Least bittern           |
| (j) <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (Linnaeus)         | Osprey                  |
| (k) <i>Sterna caspia</i> Pallas                 | Caspian tern            |
| (l) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Linnaeus              | Common tern             |
| (m) <i>Cygnus buccinator</i> Richardson         | Trumpeter swan          |

(3) The following species of birds are thought to be extirpated in Michigan, but, if rediscovered, will automatically be listed as threatened:

- |                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> (Say) | Lark sparrow |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|

### ***Falconry Specimens***

Under state and federal law falconers may possess live raptors for falconry purposes and raptors may be bred in captivity for falconry purposes under special permit. Except for specimens under a special permit, the dead bodies of these birds must be destroyed, whether captive or wild caught, and under no circumstances can they be purchased or sold. Taxidermists accepting a raptor under special permit may want to exercise special caution to ensure the specimen is not abandoned.

### ***Permit Revocation***

Part 401, Wildlife Conservation, 1994 PA 451 provides that a permit issued by the Director shall be revoked for a violation of the act, a violation of an order of the Commission or Director, or for a violation of a condition of a permit.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TAXIDERMY REGULATIONS AND TAGS

1. *I do taxidermy work on fish, reptiles, and amphibians; do these animals need to be tagged?*  
**No, fish, reptiles, and amphibians do not need to be tagged.**
2. *I do taxidermy work on exotics from various countries and other states. Do I need to tag these specimens?*  
**Exotic species do not need to be tagged unless they are endangered or threatened species or CITES species. All Michigan game and protected species, regardless of where taken, must be tagged. For example, an Ohio white-tailed deer, Ontario moose, Manitoba black bear, or Montana elk must be tagged because these species are game or protected animals under Michigan law; however, a Wyoming mule deer or Washington black-tailed deer, African antelope, or Alaska brown bear would not require a tag.**
3. *How do I tag separate parts of the same specimen, such as the antlers and cape of a deer? Do I need to put a tag on each part?*  
**A tag is not needed on each part of the same animal; however, each part must be uniquely numbered or marked so they can be readily identified by an inspecting officer as parts of the same animal. If parts are separated and not uniquely marked in some manner, each must be tagged. For deer mounts, we suggest marking the hide with a unique tattoo, brand, or number, recording this number on the tag, and placing the tag on the antlers. One part of each specimen (animal) must have a tag on it, and the original copy of the tag must be in your files for each animal received, starting October 1, 1990.**
4. *I buy green/salted hides and pelts for customer mounts. Do I need a Fur Dealers License?*  
**If you buy green hides, but only sell permanently preserved specimens, you do not need a Fur Dealer's License. If you buy green hides and sell any hides, skins, pelts or plumage, or parts of hides, skins, pelts or plumage, that are not permanently preserved, you must have a Fur Dealer's License and you must comply with all the fur dealer regulations.**
5. *Can I both buy and sell salted hides?*  
**No, not without a Fur Dealer's License. Salted hides are not permanently preserved.**
6. *Can I purchase old deer mounts, restore them with a new cape, and sell them?*  
**Yes. As a licensed taxidermist, you are authorized to conduct this type of buying and selling. In this instance, where the antlers and hide are obtained from different animals (and very likely different people) each must be tagged.**
7. *I subcontract some of my specimens to another Michigan taxidermist. Do both of us need to put a tag on the specimen?*  
**The purpose of the tag is to ensure that an inspecting officer can readily determine that the animal was legally possessed or taken by the person submitting the specimen for taxidermy work. The taxidermist initially receiving the specimen must complete and attach a specimen tag and hold the original copy on file. The subcontractor must receive the specimen with a tag attached and is NOT required to attach another tag. It is unlawful for the subcontractor to possess the specimen without a tag. If you are a subcontractor, do not accept any specimen without a completed tag attached.**


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8. Do the tags need to remain attached to hides sent to processors for preserving?

**No. No more than 24 hours prior to shipping they may be removed, otherwise the tags may be destroyed in the preserving process.**

9. Can you furnish me an example of a correctly completed tag?

**Yes. Below is an example of a correctly completed specimen tag:**

		
Michigan Department of Natural Resources <b>TAXIDERMIST SPECIMEN ID TAG</b>		
Taxidermist's Name <b>JOHN SMITH</b>		
License Number <b>J0999</b>		
Specimen belongs to:		
Name <b>JOHN HUNTER</b>		
Street Address <b>123 ANY ST</b>		
City <b>ANYTOWN</b>	State <b>MI</b>	Zip Code <b>48999</b>
Telephone Number <b>( 517 ) 777-4444</b>		
Name of Person Leaving Specimen (Please Print) <b>JOHN HUNTER</b>		
Species of Animal <b>WHITE TAILED DEER</b>		Date Specimen Arrived <b>11-27-2004</b>
How Acquired: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shot <input type="checkbox"/> Trapped <input type="checkbox"/> Game Breeder <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____		
License, Permit, Tag or Seal Number: <b>BOW 009654</b>		
Origin of Specimen:		
State (or Equivalent) <b>MICHIGAN</b>		
Country <b>USA</b>		
Disposal of Specimen: <input type="checkbox"/> Retained by Taxidermist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Returned to Owner on: (date) <b>01 / 11 / 2005</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sold or Transferred on: (date) ____ / ____ / ____ <b>To:</b> Name: _____ Address: _____		
PR 9418 (Rev. 06/14/2005)		

### ASSISTANCE

If you are unsure of the protected status of any species of bird or mammal, contact the wildlife biologist or conservation officer at your nearest office of the Michigan DNR listed on the next page.

If you have questions about the rules or laws affecting your taxidermy license, contact the Law Enforcement Supervisor at your nearest Michigan DNR office listed on the next page.

If you have any questions about your license, identification tags or need to reorder identification tags, you should contact:

**CUSTOMER SYSTEMS  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30181  
LANSING MI 48909-7681**

**Telephone 517-373-1204**

## TAXIDERMY PERMITS INFORMATION

IF YOU LIVE IN:		CONTACT THIS OFFICE	
Baraga Delta Dickinson Gogebic Houghton	Iron Keweenaw Menominee } Ontonagon	<b>DISTRICT 3</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CRYSTAL FALLS FIELD OFFICE MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 1420 US-2 WEST CRYSTAL FALLS MI 49920	Telephone #: 906-875-6622
Alger Chippewa Luce	Mackinac Marquette Schoolcraft }	<b>DISTRICT 4</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION NEWBERRY OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 5100 STATE HWY M-123 NEWBERRY MI 49868	Telephone #: 906-293-5131
Alpena Antrim Charlevoix Cheboygan Emmet	Montmorency Otsego Presque Isle }	<b>DISTRICT 5</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION GAYLORD OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 1732 WEST M-32 GAYLORD MI 49735	Telephone #: 989-732-3541
Benzie Grand Traverse Kalkaska Lake Leelanau	Manistee Mason Missaukee } Osceola Wexford	<b>DISTRICT 6</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CADILLAC OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 8015 MACKINAW TRAIL CADILLAC MI 49601	Telephone #: 231-775-9727
Alcona Clare Crawford Gladwin	Iosco Ogemaw Oscoda } Roscommon	<b>DISTRICT 7</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION ROSCOMMON OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 8717 NORTH ROSCOMMON ROAD ROSCOMMON MI 48653	Telephone #: 989-275-5151
Arenac Bay Gratiot Huron Isabella	Midland Saginaw Sanilac } Tuscola	<b>DISTRICT 8</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION BAY CITY OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 503 NORTH EUCLID AVE, SUITE 1 BAY CITY MI 48706	Telephone #: 989-684-9141
Ionia Kent Mecosta Montcalm Muskegon	Newaygo Oceana Ottawa }	<b>DISTRICT 9</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MUSKEGON STATE GAME AREA MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 7550 E MESSINGER RD TWIN LAKE MI 49457	Telephone #: 231-788-1134
Lapeer Macomb Monroe	Oakland St. Clair Wayne }	<b>DISTRICT 10</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION SOUTHFIELD OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 26000 WEST EIGHT MILE ROAD SOUTHFIELD MI 48152	Telephone #: 248-359-9040
Clinton Eaton Genesee Hillsdale Ingham	Jackson Lenawee Livingston } Shiawassee Washtenaw	<b>DISTRICT 11</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION ROSE LAKE FIELD OFFICE MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 8562 EAST STOLL ROAD EAST LANSING MI 48823	Telephone #: 517-641-4903
Allegan Barry Berrien Branch Calhoun	Cass Kalamazoo St. Joseph } Van Buren	<b>DISTRICT 12</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION PLAINWELL OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 621 NORTH 10 <sup>TH</sup> STREET PLAINWELL MI 49080-1004	Telephone #: 269-685-6851

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If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30028, Lansing MI 48909-7528, or Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, 3054 West Grand Blvd, Suite 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202, or Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement, PO Box 30031, Lansing MI 48909-7531.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.